



May 6, 2004

VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER NO. 05-04

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND DIRECTORS FOR  
VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING  
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY (SWA)  
ADMINISTRATORS  
ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, EMPLOYMENT AND  
TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (INFO)

FROM: FREDERICO JUARBE JR.

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES TO VETERANS'  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM GRANTS FOR  
PROGRAM YEAR 2004

- I. **Purpose:** To provide information on the changes to the Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) Grants for Program Year (PY) 2004-2005.
- II. **References:** Section 168 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 (PL 105-220)
- III. **Background:** Prior to the enactment of PL 105-220, the Secretary of Labor was authorized to hold a competition for VWIP grants using approximately 80% of the available funds. The remaining 20% of the funds were held in expectation of the receipt of unsolicited grant applications to be funded at the discretion of the Secretary. The passage of WIA removed the 80% - 20% split authorized by the previous statute. In addition, the Solicitations for Grant Application (SGA) for VWIP competitions specified that only State governments were eligible to apply for the funds, and that the application must bear the signature of the governor. Additionally, WIA allows the Secretary to award grants and contracts to "public agencies and private, non-profit organizations" to carry out the purposes of the act. Congress has appropriated \$7.55 million for this program for PY 2004.

It is also the intent to allow a longer period of time to apply for these funds in order that local labor market conditions are addressed in a timely manner by agencies experienced in dealing with such conditions. Accordingly, an SGA will be published shortly after June 1, 2004 announcing the availability of approximately \$5,000,000. Applications for these grant funds will be accepted from state and local governments, and private, non-profit and community based organizations, including faith-based organizations. The maximum amount of any grant is \$750,000. The period of competition will remain open for 180 days with review panels convened every 60 days to evaluate applications. If an application is not funded during any 60-day period, it will be re-evaluated by the subsequent review panel. The application will not be re-scored. The original score will be compared with scores on new applications received in order to make funding recommendations. This process will continue until the close of the application period.

The \$5,000,000 competed in the first round represents approximately 75% of the funds available. VETS anticipates issuing a new SGA on or about 1 January 2005 to award the remaining funds.

- IV. **Guidance and Technical Assistance:** State Workforce Administrators are encouraged to seek guidance and technical assistance from your State Director of Veterans' Employment and Training (DVET). Such guidance and technical assistance is available until the publication date of the SGA
- V. **Inquiries:** Grantees may address questions regarding this VPL to their DVET. DVETS or other VETS staff with questions should contact their RAVET. RAVETS may contact James Hubbard at 202.693.4710.
- VII. **Expiration Date:** Until rescinded or superseded.